

There was no objection.

WARTIME VIOLATION OF ITALIAN-AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES ACT

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2442) to provide for the preparation of a Government report detailing injustices suffered by Italian Americans during World War II, and a formal acknowledgment of such injustices by the President.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2442

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The freedom of more than 600,000 Italian-born immigrants in the United States and their families was restricted during World War II by Government measures that branded them "enemy aliens" and included carrying identification cards, travel restrictions, and seizure of personal property.

(2) During World War II more than 10,000 Italian Americans living on the West Coast were forced to leave their homes and prohibited from entering coastal zones. More than 50,000 were subjected to curfews.

(3) During World War II thousands of Italian American immigrants were arrested, and hundreds were interned in military camps.

(4) Hundreds of thousands of Italian Americans performed exemplary service and thousands sacrificed their lives in defense of the United States.

(5) At the time, Italians were the largest foreign-born group in the United States, and today are the fifth largest immigrant group in the United States, numbering approximately 15 million.

(6) The impact of the wartime experience was devastating to Italian American communities in the United States, and its effects are still being felt.

(7) A deliberate policy kept these measures from the public during the war. Even 50 years later much information is still classified, the full story remains unknown to the public, and it has never been acknowledged in any official capacity by the United States Government.

SEC. 3. REPORT.

The Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct a comprehensive review of the treatment by the United States Government of Italian Americans during World War II, and not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act shall submit to the Congress a report that documents the findings of such review. The report shall cover the period between September 1, 1939, and December 31, 1945, and shall include the following:

(1) The names of all Italian Americans who were taken into custody in the initial roundup following the attack on Pearl Harbor, and prior to the United States declaration of war against Italy.

(2) The names of all Italian Americans who were taken into custody.

(3) The names of all Italian Americans who were interned and the location where they were interned.

(4) The names of all Italian Americans who were ordered to move out of designated areas under the United States Army's "Individual Exclusion Program".

(5) The names of all Italian Americans who were arrested for curfew, contraband, or other violations under the authority of Executive Order 9066.

(6) Documentation of Federal Bureau of Investigation raids on the homes of Italian Americans.

(7) A list of ports from which Italian American fishermen were restricted.

(8) The names of Italian American fishermen who were prevented from fishing in prohibited zones and therefore unable to pursue their livelihoods.

(9) The names of Italian Americans whose boats were confiscated.

(10) The names of Italian American railroad workers who were prevented from working in prohibited zones.

(11) A list of all civil liberties infringements suffered by Italian Americans during World War II, as a result of Executive Order 9066, including internment, hearings without benefit of counsel, illegal searches and seizures, travel restrictions, enemy alien registration requirements, employment restrictions, confiscation of property, and forced evacuation from homes.

(12) An explanation of why some Italian Americans were subjected to civil liberties infringements, as a result of Executive Order 9066, while other Italian Americans were not.

(13) A review of the wartime restrictions on Italian Americans to determine how civil liberties can be better protected during national emergencies.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the story of the treatment of Italian Americans during World War II needs to be told in order to acknowledge that these events happened, to remember those whose lives were unjustly disrupted and whose freedoms were violated, to help repair the damage to the Italian American community, and to discourage the occurrence of similar injustices and violations of civil liberties in the future;

(2) Federal agencies, including the Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities, should support projects such as—

(A) conferences, seminars, and lectures to heighten awareness of this unfortunate chapter in our Nation's history;

(B) the refurbishment of and payment of all expenses associated with the traveling exhibit "Una Storia Segreta", exhibited at major cultural and educational institutions throughout the United States; and

(C) documentaries to allow this issue to be presented to the American public to raise its awareness;

(3) an independent, volunteer advisory committee should be established comprised of representatives of Italian American organizations, historians, and other interested individuals to assist in the compilation, research, and dissemination of information concerning the treatment of Italian Americans; and

(4) after completion of the report required by this Act, financial support should be provided for the education of the American public through the production of a documentary film suited for public broadcast.

SEC. 5. FORMAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

The President shall, on behalf of the United States Government, formally acknowledge that these events during World

War II represented a fundamental injustice against Italian Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2442.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, few people know that during World War II, approximately 600,000 Italian Americans in the United States were deprived of their civil liberties by government measures that branded them enemy aliens.

In fact, on December 7, 1941, hours after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the FBI took into custody hundreds of Italian American resident aliens previously classified as "dangerous" and shipped them to camps where they were imprisoned until Italy surrendered in 1943.

As so-called enemy aliens, Italian American resident aliens were required to carry a special photo identification booklet at all times and they were forced to turn over to the government such items as shortwave radios, cameras, and flashlights. Those suspected of retaining these items had their homes raided by the FBI.

In California, about 52,000 Italian American resident aliens were subjected to a curfew that confined them to their homes between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. and a travel restriction that prohibited them from traveling farther than five miles from their homes. These measures made it difficult, if not impossible, for some Italian Americans to travel to their jobs; and thousands were arrested for violations of these and other restrictions.

Then on February 24, 1942, 10,000 Italian American resident aliens living in California were ordered by the Federal Government to evacuate coastal and military zones. Most of those who had to abandon their homes were elderly, some of whom were taken away in wheelchairs and on stretchers.

Later in the fall of 1942, about 25 Italian American citizens were ordered to evacuate these areas.

In Half Moon Bay, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and Monterey the evacuation orders had an enormous impact on hundreds of Italian American fishermen, such as Giuseppe DiMaggio, father of baseball brothers Joe and Dominick and Vince DiMaggio, as well.

They were prohibited from taking their boats out to sea.

In fact, many boats belonging to Italian American fishermen were impounded by the U.S. Navy for the duration of the war.

On March 12, 1942, Ezio Pinza, a renowned opera singer at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, was arrested and interned at Ellis Island of all places. After two hearings and nearly three months of confinement on charges that were never articulated by the Government, Mr. Pinza was released.

Despite his ordeal, Ezio Pinza was honored to have been chosen to sing the "Star Spangled Banner" at the welcoming home ceremonies for Generals Patton and Doolittle.

This secret history of wartime restrictions on Italian Americans living in the United States has been largely absent from the American history books. It is long past the time that this unknown part of American history and the plight of immigrant people living in the United States who endured oppression during World War II should be revealed. The truth has to be told. I was shocked when I first heard of these abuses against one of the most loyal segments of our country.

H.R. 2442, the "Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act," requires the Department of Justice to conduct a comprehensive review of the Federal Government's treatment of the Italian Americans during World War II and to submit to the Congress a report that documents the findings of that review.

This bill also requires the President to formally acknowledge that these events represented a fundamental injustice against Italian Americans.

In addition, H.R. 2442 encourages Federal agencies, including the Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities, to support, among other things, conferences, seminars, and lectures to heighten awareness of the injustices committed against Italian Americans.

H.R. 2442 thus brings to the forefront the discrimination and the prejudice that was suffered by Italian Americans during World War II. It is my hope that a report submitted by the Justice Department pursuant to H.R. 2442 will unearth long buried events and recast the plight of Italian American immigrants in a way that will help heal those who suffered and make sure that history will never repeat such injustice again.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for bringing this to our national attention.

I want to also thank Mr. Anthony LaPiana of my district, who so forcibly brought this to my attention.

I urge Members to vote in favor of H.R. 2442.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for their efforts in bringing this bill to the floor today.

I have worked on this legislation with my colleague the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO), and I am proud to be here today to express my support for the "Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act."

December 7, 1941, is a day that is very well-known. On that day, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entered World War II.

What has been overlooked since that day is the fact that Italian Americans on that day suddenly became so-called "enemy aliens." Loyal Italian American patriots who had fought alongside U.S. armed forces in World War I, mothers and fathers of U.S. troops fighting in World War II, even women and children, were suspected of being dangerous and subversive solely because they were Italian American.

With this new enemy alien status, Italians were subject to the strict curfew regulations, forced to carry photo IDs, and could not travel farther than a five-mile radius from their homes without prior approval.

Furthermore, many Italian fishermen were forbidden from using their boats in prohibited zones. Since fishing was the only means of income for many families, households were torn apart or completely relocated as alternative sources of income were sought.

It is difficult to believe, Mr. Speaker, that over 10,000 Italians deemed enemy aliens were forcibly evacuated from their homes and over 52,000 were subject to strict curfew regulation.

Ironically, at that time, over half a million Italian Americans were serving in the U.S. armed forces, fighting to protect the liberties of all Americans, while many of their family members had their basic rights and freedoms revoked.

When we first started working on this legislation, we had vague accounts of mostly non-Italians who were subjected to these civil liberties abuses.

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However, throughout this process, we have come in contact with many Italians who experienced the internment ordeal firsthand. As the gentleman from Illinois mentioned, Dominic DiMaggio testified at a Committee on the Judiciary hearing about his dismay when he returned from the war to find that his mother and father were so-called enemy aliens. Doris Pinza, wife of international opera star Ezio Pinza, also testified at the hearing about her husband who was only weeks away from obtaining U.S. citizenship

when he was classified as an enemy alien and detained at Ellis Island. It still saddens me to think that Ellis Island, the world renowned symbol of freedom and democracy, the place where my grandparents came to this country, was used as a holding cell for Italians. There is even documented evidence of Italians being interned in camps at Missoula, Montana, and we have photos that we hope to get here soon which will demonstrate that Missoula, Montana as well was a holding camp for Italian Americans.

Mr. Speaker, we must ensure that these terrible events will never be perpetrated again. We must safeguard the individual rights of all Americans from arbitrary persecution or no American will ever be secure. The least our government can do is try to right these terrible wrongs by acknowledging that these events did occur. While we cannot erase the mistakes of the past, we must try to learn from them in order to ensure that we never subject anyone ever again to the same injustices.

The Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act calls on the Department of Justice to publish a report detailing the unjust policies of the government during this time period. Essential to the report will be a study examining ways to safeguard individual rights during national emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to the Italian American community, especially to those and the families who endured these abuses, to recognize the injustices of the past. Documentation and education about the suffering of all groups of Americans who face persecution is important in order to ensure that no group's civil liberties is ever violated again. I look forward to casting my vote for this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA).

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding me this time. I would also like to compliment the sponsors, the lead sponsor in particular the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) on this bill, because I think it is going to shed some light on a silent chapter in American history.

First, let me say, I think we live in a wonderful country. We are so blessed to live in a land of freedom and opportunity and indeed that is why so many of our ancestors came to these shores. As my grandparents came from Italy, they came for nothing but to seek a better way of life. Some of their children served this country in World War II.

This resolution does not ask for any memorials or any payments. I think

what it seeks to do is just to shed a little light on what was an injustice during a time when so many Italian Americans were serving this great country. If we can just allow those generations yet to come to appreciate the contributions made by millions of Italian Americans like so many other Americans who gave their life for this country so that we could be free, I think we would be making a wonderful statement, that when this country perhaps engages in an injustice, it is willing to right it. We are not coming down here screaming that this has got to be erased from the history books. No, indeed what we are doing is, as I said, letting the generations yet to come know what this is all about.

The Italian Americans who served this country in war and otherwise in business in our local communities really love and appreciate this country. What this will do, Mr. Speaker, is to allow those families that were dishonored by some of these actions by the United States Government to erase that dishonor from their family books, because if there is anything Italian Americans appreciate and love, it is their pride and honor. They love this country. They love what it represents. If we can do that and call into question some of the activities that occurred about 50 years ago by this government, I think it would be a good thing.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT).

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill. The bill was considered in the Subcommittee on the Constitution, we worked on it, and I raised one concern during the deliberations in the subcommittee that I want to raise again on the floor, not to diminish the importance of the bill but to express concern about how we are doing this.

There are a number of things that we could direct the President to apologize for that have happened in the history of our country. This will be the first time that we will have gone on record as directing the President of the United States to make a formal apology for some historical event. Now, apologies have been made and this is one where it would be justified. There is no question about it. But I am concerned about the precedent that we establish by the last provision in the bill which directs the President, it says the President shall on behalf of the United States Government formally acknowledge that these events during World War II represented a fundamental injustice against Italian Americans. I think that is a wrong precedent to establish. It is not something that would impel me to vote against this bill or to lobby against it because it is a wonderful bill, but I do encourage my colleagues as we go forward in the process to correct that language, because oth-

erwise the President of the United States is going to be out there every week apologizing for something or acknowledging some injustice. I am not sure that we want to start that precedent in our country, regardless of how terrible the incidents are that we are acknowledging.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, simply to comment on the gentleman from North Carolina's statement. It may be a distinction without a difference, but the word "apology" is not used. It is an acknowledgment that these events represented a fundamental injustice against Italian Americans. And so that is somewhat different.

There is a precedent of sorts for this, 22 U.S. Code Annotated, section 1394, Recognition of Philippine Independence. The President of the United States, if I may read, shall by proclamation and on behalf of the United States, shall recognize the independence of the Philippine Islands as a separate and self-governing nation and acknowledge the authority and control over the same of the government instituted by the people thereof under the constitution then in force.

So this statute, which is law and which Harry Truman, I might add, followed through with an appropriate proclamation, required an acknowledgment, a recognition of the independence of the Philippine Islands. I would cite that to my friend.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HYDE. I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I do not want to diminish the value of this bill by getting sidetracked onto this side issue. But even that language would be better than the language that we have in this bill. The only point I want to make is that I hope the sponsors of this bill and the draftspersons, as the bill goes forward in the process with the Senate, take a close look at what we are doing here and consider altering the way we are doing it. But again, I do not want anything to diminish the value of this bill. It is a very important bill. We ought to acknowledge it. The President has suggested that we do it simply by saying the United States Government formally acknowledges, et cetera.

But again we cannot do it on the suspension calendar, anyway. I just wanted to make sure that some deliberation about how we do this gets put out.

Mr. HYDE. I think the gentleman's point is certainly worth making.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA).

Mrs. ROUKEMA. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to say that it is incomprehensible to me that this abuse and discrimination could have

occurred and that it was not rectified for all these years. And so I want to thank the gentleman and certainly the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for bringing it to the attention of this House. It is long overdue. And as has been stated very adequately and more than adequately by the gentleman from Illinois, exactly what it does to put this, our house in order here.

The proper context of this, as I see it as an Italian American, is that these restrictions and discrimination were imposed on Italian Americans at the time when they were contributing so richly to our society. In fact, it was at a time when 1.2 million Americans were estimated to be of Italian descent serving in the United States military defending our country.

I guess I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that most of the 600,000 Italians had been living in the United States since the turn of the century, long before any possible hostilities between their homeland and their new land. In that regard, Mr. Speaker, I do want to acknowledge the Scafatis and the D'Alessios from which I am descended.

I thank my colleagues so much for this opportunity and this rectification of this discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2442 and urge its immediate passage. In fact, House consideration of this legislation is long overdue. In fact, it is incomprehensible that this abuse and discrimination could have occurred or that it was not rectified for all these years!

This is straightforward legislation designed to address injustices that occurred during a complicated time. This bill simply requires the President of the United States to formally acknowledge that Italians and Italian-Americans faced serious violations of their civil rights during World War II. The bill further directs the Justice Department to compile and catalogue these violations.

It has been my experience that few Americans are aware that more than half a million Italians living in the United States during World War II suffered serious violations of their civil rights.

Shortly after the United States declared war on Italy in 1941, the federal government classified more than 600,000 Italians living in the United States as "internal enemies." From February through October 1942, the United States imposed restrictions on these 600,000 Italians. They were required to register at the nearest post office, carry identification cards, and report all job changes. They could not travel more than five miles from their own homes. In some states, they had to adhere to dusk to dawn curfews. They were forbidden to own guns. Cameras and short-wave radios were also "out-of-bounds".

To put this in the proper context, these restrictions and discriminations were imposed on Italian Americans at a time when they were contributing richly to American society. In the least, an estimated 1.2 million Americans of

Italian descent were serving in the U.S. military, constituting one of the largest segments of the U.S. combat forces in the war effort.

Mr. Speaker, most of these 600,000 Italians had been living in the United States since the turn of the century—long before any possible hostilities between their homeland—Mother Italy—and their new land—the United States of America. My family—the Scafatis and the D'Alessios—came to this country in the early 1900s. And while I have never heard any family stories that they were subjected to this kind of overt discrimination, the point is, they could have been.

And if it could have happened to them in 1942, we have to ask: what is to prevent the wholesale violation of another ethnic group's civil rights in the Year 2002?

Make no mistake about it. The United States has always been "The Shining City on a Hill." America is, indeed, the "Great Melting Pot" where peoples of all races and national origins come to live and work in relative harmony.

With that said, we can be justifiably proud of our national ability to shine a spotlight on our darkest moments. There is no doubt that the treatment of Italians in America during World War II was a dark chapter in American history.

That is precisely why this legislation is so important. By debating H.R. 2442, we are shining a light on this dark chapter, so that current generations will not repeat the mistakes of the past. So that our children and their children will understand more clearly than ever that our precious civil rights exist for everyone and for all times.

Support H.R. 2442.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for bringing this bill to the floor. As a cosponsor of the Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act, I rise in strong support of the bill.

This bill rights a terrible wrong against our parents, our grandparents and the upstanding elders of our communities. A century ago, Italian Americans left behind their homes to make their way in the new world. It is places like Wooster Square in New Haven, Connecticut, where I grew up that they came with little else but a determination to work hard and make a new life. They raised their families, and built strong, tightly knit communities. The values that Italian Americans shared are the same values that have made this Nation great; hard work, family, community, faith.

My own father, an Italian immigrant, served in the United States Army. And yet in our history, 600,000 Italian Americans were treated as enemies in their own land. Ten thousand were forced from their homes, and hundreds lost their jobs or were shipped to internment camps, all because they were Italian.

I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman

from New York (Mr. LAZIO) for keeping up the pressure on the Federal Government to acknowledge the nightmare that Italian Americans lived through, loyal U.S. citizens, leaders of their communities, during World War II.

I know I speak for both my family and myself when I say it is an honor to stand here today to call on our government to recognize this terrible injustice. This wrong must not be hidden in the shadows any longer. I am very proud to stand here and to support this bill. Again, I thank my colleagues.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor, I am pleased to rise in support of the Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act. I want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for being such leaders in making sure that this piece of legislation was well crafted and came before the House.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) very much for helping this bill come before us for a vote. It is so important. H.R. 2442 is going to officially acknowledge the denial of human rights and freedoms of Italian Americans during World War II by the United States Government.

While many Americans know the sad history of our Nation's treatment of Japanese Americans following Pearl Harbor and our entry into World War II, remarkably, few Americans know that shortly after that attack, the attention and concern of the U.S. Government was similarly focused on Italian Americans. More than 600,000 Italian Americans were determined to be enemy aliens by their own government.

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More than 10,000 were forcibly evicted from their homes; 52,000 were subject to strict curfew regulations, and hundreds were shipped to internment camps. Constitutional guarantees of due process were absolutely unrecognized.

Although they had family members whose basic rights had been revoked, more than a half million Italian Americans served this Nation with honor and valor to defeat fascism during World War II. My three brothers served very valiantly in World War II and one, in fact, received a Purple Heart. Thousands made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Wartime Violation of Italian Americans Civil Liberties Act directs the Department of Justice to prepare a comprehensive report detailing the unjust policies against Italian Americans during this period of American history. It is vital to the foundations of our

democratic governance that the people be fully informed of these devastating actions. This legislation recognizes the thousands of innocent victims and honors those who suffered. In a country that so cherishes its equality, we must acknowledge the travesties of the past so we are not condemned to repeat them.

As the daughter of immigrant parents from Italy, I am very glad that this House of Representatives and my colleagues have brought forward this resolution, and I seek its swift passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) has 11½ minutes remaining; the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) has 6½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for bringing this legislation and this whole issue really to my attention. I think it was several months ago, maybe even a year ago, when the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) mentioned to me that he was involved with the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) in introducing this bill. I want to say that I was frankly shocked by some of the information that has come forward in terms of Italian Americans being taken into custody, being interned, being ordered to move to designated areas.

I say that because as an Italian American and representing a district that has a very large number of Italian Americans, most of my knowledge about the history of World War II and the Italian American participation was of so many soldiers of Italian American dissent going abroad, fighting in the war, including my father and a lot of my relatives, and I only had the memory, the positive memory, if you will, of their contribution to the war effort. To be told that there were many Italian Americans that suffered these various terrible things that happened to them was very disconcerting.

So, Mr. Speaker, when I saw this bill and I saw the effort to have a thorough investigation which this bill would require, I think it is about time; I think it is time that this take place. I think it is very important to Italian Americans that this information come forward. We have an obligation to our community and certainly the country has an obligation to all of those who served during the war to make sure that this information is brought forward so that we can get to the bottom of it.

I just want to commend the two gentlemen from New York for their efforts on this behalf and I urge support for the bill.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I

want to go into the well and show my colleagues two photos that were taken during that terrible period.

These photos were taken at Missoula, Montana at the internment camp holding the various Italian Americans primarily from the West Coast, and one of the things that people are saying, as our colleagues have said when they first heard about it and as the chairman said, everyone was in shock because nobody could really believe that this had actually happened. We had heard about the terrible internment of Japanese Americans during the war, but no one knew anything about Italian Americans. My colleagues can see over here, this was from Missoula, Montana, and this is a picture of the internment camp. We can see a band of Italian Americans just waiting to go into the camp.

The next photo actually is a little bit closer and it shows again the fence, how the people were fenced in; we can see the American flag flying, and again, we have Italian Americans arriving at the Missoula, Montana internment camp in 1941. Again, this happened shortly after, a matter of days literally, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

So I am very proud of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have really helped move this legislation; the chairman, who moved mountains to get this done, and it has been a pleasure working with my good friend and colleague from New York (Mr. LAZIO).

When we wrote this legislation, Mr. Speaker, we wanted the American public to know, and we want the Justice Department to continue to open up its records, because if there are things that we still do not know, we want to know all that happened during this period. This is obviously the greatest country in the world and even great countries make some mistakes, and we raise this not to go back in the past, but we raise this so that mistakes like this will never be made again against any American or against any kind of people.

I want to acknowledge the role that NIAF, the National Italian American Foundation, has played in helping with this bill, and I want to especially acknowledge the role that my administrative assistant, John Calvelli, played in helping to draft this legislation. I think most of the wording of this bill he wrote, and I am very grateful for everything that he has done for this legislation. I look forward to swift and speedy passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield the balance of our time to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO), the chief sponsor of this excellent legislation.

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying, that there are a lot of

folks who thought this day would never come; that this House would never consider a resolution that spoke to an era in American history that some believed was long forgotten. But they did not count on the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), and I want to thank my friend, the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, for once again reflecting his sense of decency and justice in helping to move this bill to the floor. I also wanted to thank the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) and of course the leading cosponsor of the bill, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for his remarkable efforts in trying to move this bill forward.

This legislation embodies values that we hold dear in our Nation—the values of truth, of liberty, and of freedom. These are the very same values that our country fought to protect in nations far overseas during the Second World War.

Mr. Speaker, I happen to be a member of the Anthony Cassamento Lodge of the Sons of Italy back on Long Island. Now, the name Anthony Cassamento may not ring a bell to most people, but it means a great deal to me. Anthony Cassamento is a true American hero who lived in my district until his death. He was a man who earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for his conduct at the Battle of Guadalcanal. During the battle, every member of Corporal Cassamento's machine-gun section was killed or wounded in a fire fight. Cut off from all help and badly injured, he manned his section's weapon singlehandedly, beating back repeated assaults on his position and destroying an enemy machine gun nest. In the process, he provided crucial covering fire for a flanking assault by the rest of his unit, and saved dozens of American lives.

Mr. Speaker, while Anthony Cassamento was manning that machine gun nest and saving American lives for the cause of freedom, hundreds of his fellow Italian Americans were being shipped and held in internment camps for no other reason than their ethnicity, because they happened to be born as Italian Americans. While Anthony Cassamento was providing covering fire for his fellow Marines, his friends and acquaintances back home were considered enemy aliens by the U.S. Government.

It is a little known fact that in the first days after Pearl Harbor, hundreds of Italian Americans were arrested as security risks and shipped off to distant internment centers without benefit of counsel or of trial. They were held against their will until Italy surrendered two years later. Two years later, Mr. Speaker. Consider that. Without trial, without due process.

Another 10,000 Italian Americans across the Nation were forcibly evacuated from their homes in the early

months of 1942. Also, as the chairman of the committee has explained, an estimated 600,000 Italian nationals, most of whom had lived in the United States for decades, were eventually deemed "enemy aliens" and subject to strict travel restrictions, curfews and seizures of their personal property. This all happened while half a million Italian Americans like Anthony Cassamento and my own dad, Anthony Lazio, were serving, fighting, and some, yes, even dying in the U.S. armed forces during World War II.

Now, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) had referenced a recent hearing where we listened to former all-star Red Sox center fielder Dom DiMaggio, brother of the famed Yankee Clipper Joe DiMaggio, as he described the shame that his father felt after being classified as an enemy alien. He explained the hurt his father felt after being prohibited from visiting the wharf where he had worked for decades.

We listened to Doris Pinza, widow of the international opera star, Ezio Pinza, as she related a terrible ordeal her husband endured, which included three months of detention at Ellis Island. It is a testament to Mr. Pinza's unwavering patriotism, his love of this country, that after all that, he sang the Star-Spangled Banner at the welcoming home ceremonies for Generals Patton and Doolittle after the war.

We listened to Rose Scudero tell the story about how as a young woman, she and her mother were forcibly relocated to another town in California while her dad, a U.S. citizen, stayed behind to work in a shipyard vital to the war effort.

These were truly moving stories, Mr. Speaker, stories of loyal, patriotic Americans who were treated like criminals by the country that they loved.

To this day, few Americans have any idea these events took place. Most believe that President Roosevelt's infamous Executive Order 9066 applied only to Japanese and Japanese Americans, but there is another sad chapter to this story, "Una Storia Segreta," a secret story. The bill we are considering today represents a modest attempt to start setting the record straight.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that this bill has attracted 86 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle. The diversity of this list reflects both the national scope of the injustices that took place and the widespread desire felt across ethnic and geographic lines that justice be done.

As we have heard also, Mr. Speaker, the noted poet and philosopher George Santayana observed that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." But the truth must be established before it can be remembered. That is why this bill has been introduced. We owe it to the Italian American community and indeed to the American public to find out

exactly what happened and to publicize it. A complete understanding of what took place during this sad chapter of American history is the best guarantee that it will never happen again.

With that, I once again want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, for his leadership in bringing this measure to the floor today.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of "The Wartime Violations of Italian-American Civil Liberties Act."

I want to begin by thanking the distinguished chairman and ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee for helping bring this worthwhile resolution before the full House today.

Too few Americans know that during world war II Italian Immigrants in America were classified as "dangerous aliens" during World War II.

And too few Americans know that many of these Italian immigrants were shipped to internment camps.

In fact, during World War II, over 10,000 Italian immigrants to our country were removed from their homes and over 52,000 others had to endure strict curfew regulations.

I stand here today in support of this resolution because it is the moral responsibility of the United States Government to acknowledge this mistreatment of Italian-Americans during World War II.

Understand, while over 500,000 Italian-Americans were fighting to defend our nation in World War II, many of their families in the United States were being forced to carry photo ID cards and were unable to move freely throughout the country.

This resolution rightly calls on the President to acknowledge the suffering caused by the Federal Government's policies towards law abiding Italian-Americans during World War II.

It directs the U.S. Justice Department to publish a comprehensive report detailing the U.S. Government's unjust policies towards Italian-Americans during World War II.

More importantly, this Justice Department report will include an examination of how the civil liberties of all Americans can be protected in times of national emergencies in the future.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow House members, the time has come for us to recognize the enormous suffering endured by Italian-Americans during World War II.

I urge my colleagues to support this worthwhile resolution.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, as the grandson of Italian immigrants, I rise in strong support of this legislation which brings light to a dark period in our nation's history.

During World War II, the United States government placed several restrictions on many Italian-born immigrants. By 1942, unbelievably over 600,000 Italian Americans were classified as enemy aliens, forcing over 10,000 in internment military camps without due process, imposing travel restrictions beyond a five mile radius of their homes, forcing them to carry a photo ID and seizing property. Ironically, more than 500,000 Italian Americans were courageously serving in the United States Armed Forces fighting to preserve democracy and

civil liberties of all Americans abroad, while back home some of their families were denied the basic freedoms they were fighting to protect!

Clearly, this tragic chapter in American history must not be forgotten. This important measure seeks to raise the plight of all Italian Americans who experienced harassment, harsh detainment and unjust treatment during World War II. Specifically, H.R. 2442 urges the President to publicly recognize and acknowledge our governments systematic denial of basic human rights and freedoms of Italian Americans during the War and requires the Justice Department to review the treatment of Italian Americans, and issue a comprehensive report detailing the unjust policies during this period, including a study to list all of the civil liberties infringements suffered.

After all, an Italian American discovered America. Italian immigrants helped to build this country and have contributed immeasurably to the rich fabric of our history, society and culture and around the world. The actions and policies of our government during World War II was a black mark that almost destroyed a part of the very foundation upon which America was established and built and has been maintained.

I urge all my colleagues to support this long overdue legislation.

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of a bill that I am co-sponsoring, which aims to increase public awareness about a violation committed by our government nearly 60 years ago against hundreds of thousands of Italian Americans. Under this bill, the President, on behalf of the United States Government, would formally acknowledge that the civil liberties of Italian Americans were violated during World War II.

Given the tremendous contributions that Italian Americans have made to this country, it is hard to believe that our government once felt it had to protect itself from those considered to be "dangerous aliens," as they were termed in 1941.

To fully understand the need for this legislation, we must recall the events that took place beginning in 1941. On December 7, 1941, hours after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, FBI agents took into custody hundreds of Italian Americans previously classified as "dangerous aliens." Without counsel or trial, approximately 250 of them were shipped to internment camps in Montana and on Ellis Island, where they were imprisoned until Italy surrendered in 1943. Their crime: suspicion that these men, some of whom are anti-fascist, might be dangerous in time of war. How truly sad that a person's ethnic background was once reason enough to remove them from society.

In January 1942, all aliens of Italian descent (approximately 600,000 individuals) were deemed "enemy" aliens, and were required to re-register at post offices nationwide. This is quite noteworthy since resident aliens had already registered in 1940 under the Smith Act. All were required to carry photo-bearing ID booklets at all times, forbidden to travel beyond a five mile radius of home, and required to turn in "countersuband"—shortwave radios, cameras, flashlights, etc. On October 12, 1942, Attorney General Francis Biddle finally

announces that Italian Americans are removed from "enemy alien" status.

Yet, their release from this status didn't allow them much time to enjoy life as fully-recognized members of American society. Records reveal that Italian Americans, the largest foreign-born group in the nation, comprised the largest ethnic group in the United States Armed Forces during World War II.

And their contributions to the United States did not stop there.

Italian Americans have made their mark in so many areas of our lives, from business, to education, to government. For example, the largest bank in the country, Bank of America was established by Amadeo Pietro Giannini, and Tropicana was founded by Anthony Rossi; the founder of Fairleigh Dickinson University was Peter Sammartino and Mother Francis Cabrini founded 14 colleges, 98 schools, and 28 orphanages; and Charles Joseph Bonaparte founded the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill on behalf of all Italian Americans, so that future generations will have a better understanding of our nation's history. As I have demonstrated, Italian Americans have contributed so much to this country, and I believe we owe them, and their families who had to endure American societal pressures in the 1940s, this respect.

It is through the educational efforts that this bill seeks to initiate, such as encouraging relevant federal agencies to support projects that heighten public awareness of this unfortunate chapter in our nation's history; such as having the President and Congress provide direct financial support for a film documentary; and such as the formation of an advisory committee to assist in the compilation of relevant information regarding this matter and related public policy matters, that we will ensure that this tragedy is never repeated.

On behalf of the 630,000 Italian Americans in Connecticut, and the 114,574 who live in our state's capital, Hartford, which is in my district and ranks 21st on the National Italian American Foundation's list of top 50 cities with the most Italian Americans, I urge support of this bill. We cannot change the past, but recognizing this serious violation will send an important message to the generations who have been affected by this terrible period of time in our nation's history. It will tell them: "You are not forgotten."

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the "Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act," H.R. 2442. This legislation addresses and attempts to redress America's mistaken discriminatory policies during World War II that harmed Italian Americans. This bill would require the Government to prepare a report detailing the injustices suffered by Italian Americans during World War II, and have the President formally acknowledge such injustices.

Throughout America, more than ten thousand Italian Americans were forcibly evacuated from their homes and taken away from military installations and coastal areas. In addition, approximately 600,000 Italian nationals, many whom had spent years in America, were mislabeled "enemy aliens" and forced to endure strict travel restrictions, curfews, and seizures of personal property. Some of these

Italian Americans were excluded from California and the district I represent, San Francisco.

As with many Japanese Americans, the U.S. government deprived these Italian Americans of their civil liberties. The government prevented them from traveling far from their homes and confiscated their shortwave radios, cameras, and firearms. Historians estimate that in California, 52,000 Italian Americans were subjected to a curfew. In Boston harbor and other ports, Italian American fishermen were denied their livelihood. Despite this mistreatment, more than 500,000 Italian Americans were allowed to serve and fight in the U.S. armed forces.

To straighten the official historical record, The Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act would have the Department of Justice prepare and publish a comprehensive report detailing the government's unjust policies and practices during this time period. Looking ahead, this bill would require the Department to analyze how it will protect U.S. civil liberties during future national emergencies. The bill also requires the President to formally acknowledge America's failure to protect the civil liberties of Italian Americans, who were then America's largest foreign-born ethnic group.

We can never undo the injustices that were done to Italian Americans, including thousands of long term residents. We can never adequately compensate those individuals or the Italian American community. We can take steps to remember and publicize this shameful chapter of American history. We can work to ensure that every American has equal protections and equal opportunities. Too frequently in our history, our society and individuals have sought to mislabel those different from us and override the rights of these "others." This bill reminds us of our obligation to prevent the government and individuals from mislabeling and then discriminating against the "other."

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2442.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STALKING PREVENTION AND VICTIM PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1869) to amend title 18, United States Code, to expand the prohibition on stalking, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1869

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Stalking Prevention and Victim Protection Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF THE PROHIBITION ON STALKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2261A of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 2261A. Stalking

"(a) Whoever—

"(1) for the purpose of stalking an individual, travels or causes another to travel in interstate or foreign commerce, uses or causes another to use the mail or any facility in interstate or foreign commerce, or enters or leaves, or causes another to enter or leave, Indian country; or

"(2) within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States or within Indian country, stalks an individual; shall be punished as provided in section 2261.

"(b) For purposes of this section, a person stalks an individual if that person engages in conduct—

"(1) with the intent to injure or harass the individual; and

"(2) that places the individual in reasonable fear of the death of, or serious bodily injury (as defined for the purposes of section 2119) to, that individual, a member of that individual's immediate family (as defined in section 115), or that individual's intimate partner.

"(c) The court shall at the time of sentencing for an offense under this section issue an appropriate protection order designed to protect the victim from further stalking by the convicted person. Such an order shall remain in effect for such time as the court deems necessary, and may be modified, extended or terminated at any time after notice to the victim and opportunity for a hearing."

(b) DETENTION PENDING TRIAL.—Section 3156(a)(4)(C) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting "or section 2261A" after "117".

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 110A of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 2261A and inserting the following:

"2261A. Stalking."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am managing this bill on behalf of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. McCOLLUM), my friend and colleague, and at this time I would like to recognize his leadership on this bill and also the leadership of the chairman of the full Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

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Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I do rise at this time in support of H.R. 1869, the

Stalking Prevention and Victim Protection Act of 1999.

The bill was introduced by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY), and this bill has been the result of 4 years of hard labor on behalf of the gentlewoman from New York. She recognized that presently we have over 1 million women in this country that are being stalked, we have about 400,000 men, and we have hundreds of thousands of children that are now being stalked because of the Internet.

The full Committee on the Judiciary favorably reported the bill as amended by voice vote. The goals of the bill are to expand the reach of the Federal stalking statute to prosecute cyberstalkers who are currently beyond the reach of Federal law enforcement but are deserving of Federal prosecution, and to better protect stalking victims by authorizing pretrial detention for alleged stalkers, and mandating the issuing of a civil protection order against convicted stalkers.

These goals are worthwhile, and these goals will give Federal prosecutors the tools they need to prosecute stalkers who might otherwise not be prosecuted at the State and local level.

That said, let me emphasize that the vast majority of stalking cases are, and even after this legislation passes, will be prosecuted at the State and local level. This legislation does not in any way seek to federalize stalking crimes. What it does do is that it will help Federal prosecutors respond to predatory stalking behavior that under current law is beyond the reach of State and local officials because of cyberstalking.

The bill would make several significant changes or additions to current law. I would like to go over those at this time.

First, it would reach stalkers who use the mail or any facility in interstate or foreign commerce to stalk their victims. A lot of times, that is the Internet. Under current law, Federal jurisdiction over stalking crimes is triggered only when a stalker actually crosses State lines physically with the intent to injure or harass a person, and his conduct places that person in reasonable fear of death or bodily injury.

So Members can see from that definition, it would not include someone stalking by use of the mail or the Internet, because they would not physically cross a State line.

This bill actually just brings us into the electronic age, and is long overdue. The physical travel requirements preclude the Federal prosecution of stalkers who use other means of interstate communication, such as mail or the Internet, to threaten or harass their victims. With the explosive growth of the Internet and other telecommunication technologies, there is evidence of cyberstalking. Stalking using advanced communication technologies is